व्यय में कमी मुख्यतः कर्मिकों की भर्ती में लगे समय और राजस्थान सरकार से भूमि-आवंटन में विलंब होने से हुई जिससे परिणामस्वरूप संस्थान के भवन का निर्माण रुक गया। संस्थान के अनुसंधान सलाहकार दल ने कार्य करना शुरू कर दिया है और परियोजनाओं का कार्यान्वयन 1990–91 से किया जा रहा है। संसाधनों की कमी के कारण किसी भी अनुसंधान परियोजना का कार्य अवरुद्ध नहीं हुआ है।

Depletion of Forest Wealth

503. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government to check the fast depleting forest wealth in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Following steps have been taken by Government to check the fast depleting forest wealth in India:

(i) Supply of fuelwood and fodder is being increased through social/farm-forestry.

(ii) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been made more stringent through its amendment in 1988.

(iii) Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments to associate village Communities, Voluntary Agencies and other Non-Government Organisations in regeneration and protection of degraded forests.

(iv) Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments to consider banning tree fellings in the hills above 1000 metres altitude, at least for some years.

(v) Forest Protection measures are being intensified, including strengthening of infrastructure facilities, to curb biotic interference in the forests.

Prevention of Aravalli Hills from pollution

504. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have an action plan to protect the Aravalli Hill in Rajasthan from pollution;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a total ban on the setting up of new industrial plants, mining, quarrying or construction activity near the Aravalli hills in Rajasthan has been imposed; and

(d) if so, what further steps Government propose to take to save the Aravalli hills from pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) There is no separate Action Plan to protect the Aravalli Hills from pollution.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) It is proposed to regulate development activities in selected parts of the Aravalli.

Forestry in North-Eastern States

505. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forest area in a number of North-Eastern States has been drastically shrinking;

(b) if so, what is the percentage by which the forest areas in those States shrank during the last one decade;

(c) what are the reasons that have contributed to the shrinking of forests in North-Eastern region; and

(d) what steps Government are considering to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) According to the assessment made by the Forest Survey of India based on the visual interpretation of satellite imageries pertaining to the periods 1981—83 and 1985—87, a decrease in actual forest cover has been indicated in the following States mainly due to shifting cultivation and unregulated felling:

Assam	1.26 per cent
Meghalaya	4.97 per cent
Mizoram	4.78 per cent
Tripura	7.2 per cent

(d) The Government have taken following steps to check it: (i) Afforestation programme have been launched under 20 Point Programme.

(2) Guidelines have been issued to prepare working plan for all the forest areas.

(3) As per available information under the centrally sponsored scheme of shifting cultivation, 26,532 famalies have been selected for rehabilitation in nine states for which total outlay of Rs. 174 crores is envisaged. During the four years, 1987-88 to 1990-91 a sum of Rs. 50.91 crores has been released as a Central Assistant to the nine states for implementation of this scheme.

Private Sector Industries Under Envvironment (Protection) Act

506. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a act that Government have decided to bring private sector industries under the purview of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what are the names of the big industries in private and public sector which are polluting major rivers in Karnataka; and

(d) what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Public and private industries have been under the purrview of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 since its inception.

(c) and (d) Data is being collected from State authorities and shall be laid on the table of the house as it is available.

Forest conservation Act, 1980

507. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka Government has represented for amending the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 with a view to confer power on the State Government to divert the forest lands upto five hectares for important project; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRNOMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No such formal proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka.

(b) Does not arise.

Hydro electricity projects in Karnataka

508. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: